Construction projects to cause few disruptions

Various improvement projects will continue across campus this summer, but unlike last year, they will cause few disruptions.

The only one that is expected to interfere with normal campus life is the redesign of Fountain Plaza to add more green space, seating and shade and to make the area's geometric shape less rigid.

Peter Strazdas, associate vice president for facilities management, says a landscape architect as well as a construction manager have been hired for the project, and construction fencing will be installed around the plaza after the June commencement.

"That part of campus will be disrupted until mid-August, but we'll do as much as possible to minimize it," Strazdas says. "By early June, we should have a meeting set up with building coordinators in the area and a detailed fencing map ready. And we'll keep moving the fence in as more areas of the plaza are finished."

The only other noteworthy disruptions this summer will come from paving work.

The approximate dates for this work are early July through early August for repaving Lot 46 between Sangren Hall and the Siebert Administration Building and mid-July to Aug. 1 for repaving and curb work on West Michigan Avenue from in front of the Bernhard Center to the turnaround.

Among the most noticeable ongoing projects that the campus community will be able to keep tabs on this summer is Phase II of the Western View Apartments. The work will add two apartment buildings and a clubhouse to the popular new housing complex when they go online this fall.

The complex is designed for single students.

Emergency communication system is changing

WMU will switch to a new emergency alert system this month to increase both the speed and the number of communication options available to alert students and employees when a critical situation is unfolding on campus.

The new product, which is scheduled for activation Tuesday, June 11, is by Rave Mobile Safety. It employs preprogrammed text or voice messages that will deliver information either to a cell phone or a landline. The new system will deliver emergency information to any currently enrolled WMU student or active WMU employee.

The Rave system will operate under the University’s established WMU Alert name, notes Cam Vossen, emergency management.

Those who have already registered a preferred emergency number with WMU Alert will have that number automatically transferred to the new system, and anyone who has registered the number of a text-capable phone in WMU Alert will receive messages about emergency situations in text format. Landlines or cell phones without text capability will continue to receive messages as voice alerts, but the person answering the phone will no longer need to trigger that message by speaking into the receiver.

Vossen says the University is urging all enrolled students and active employees to activate, update or verify the phone preference listed in their WMU Alert account by following the instructions in the alert.

Candidates for education dean to make presentations

Five finalists for the position of dean of the College of Education and Human Development will visit campus Friday through Thursday, June 7-13, to meet with faculty, staff and students and make public presentations.

The candidates will make public presentations from 2 to 3:30 p.m. in 2020 Fetzer Center. Their names and current positions along with the days of their presentations are:

- Sandra Cooley Nichols, head of the University of Alabama Department of Special Education and Multiple Abilities, Friday, June 7;
- Sherwood Thompson, professor in the Eastern Kentucky University College of Education, Tuesday, June 11;
- Page Smith, professor of education and associate dean for graduate studies and administration at the University of Texas at San Antonio, Monday, June 10;
- Karin Jordan, professor and chair of the Department of Counseling at the University of Akron, Wednesday, June 12; and
- Ming Li, interim executive director of the Ohio University Center for International Studies, Thursday, June 13.

Trustees to discuss tuition at meeting

Members of the WMU Board of Trustees will meet at 11:15 a.m. Wednesday, June 12, in 157-159 Bernhard Center. They will consider tuition for both on-campus courses and those offered at regional locations and online through Extended University Programs. Other agenda items include the 2013-14 general fund budget, promotion and tenure recommendations, and personnel, gifts and grants reports.

Everyone Counts applications due soon

Application packets for the 2013-14 Everyone Counts Faculty and Professional Learning Community program are being accepted through Friday, June 21. The theme for the year is race and racism. Visit wmich.edu/facdev for details and the application form. Direct questions to Tierra L. Marshall at (269) 387-6324.

Photo session slated for employees

Faculty and staff are encouraged to have an official University photo taken between 9:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. Friday, June 7, in Walwood Hall’s Heining Emeriti Lounge. Employees may have electronic copies for personal use at no charge. Contact Sue Beougher at sue.beougher@wmich.edu or (269) 387-8402 to confirm your session or receive your photo.

Military, veteran webinars scheduled

The military and veterans affairs office is hosting a brown-bag webinar series titled “Supporting Military and Veteran Students.” The series’ programs are being presented by the American Council on Education and can be viewed in 1353 Ellsworth Hall.

The programs are as follows: today, 1 to 2:30 p.m., “Serving Those Who Served: An Overview of Military and Veterans in Higher Education”; June 13, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., “Fundraising for Military and Veteran Programs”; and June 20, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., “Pathways and Partnerships.”

Chinese paper cutting workshop set

WMU’s Confucius Institute is offering a free workshop on the ancient art form of Chinese paper cutting from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m. on June 13, in 2037 Brown Hall. The workshop will include a brief presentation about the history of paper cutting and a hands-on opportunity to create a window decoration. Registration is required at (269) 387-4562 or wmucnfucius-cc@wmich.edu by providing your name and the number of people planning to attend.

Only one more Western News until fall

The final issue of Western News for the summer will be distributed Thursday, June 20. The deadline to submit items for that issue is 5 p.m. Friday, June 14. Visit the University’s online news website, WMU News, at wmich.edu/news during the hiatus to stay up to date on campus events and information.

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Tickets on sale now for upcoming seasons

Miller Auditorium and the University Theatre have announced their 2013-14 lineups. The state's third largest theatre, Miller serves as the premier venue for Broadway shows, and the University Theatre presents performances by Department of Theatre students and guest artists in the most intimate facilities of the Gilmore Theatre complex. The auditorium's new season will kick off with Hal Holbrook in “Mark Twain Tonight” Oct. 5 followed by Sinbad Oct. 11. Patrons will be treated to the smash-hit musical comedy “The Addams Family” less than two weeks later, followed by other Broadway productions such as “Mamma Mia,” “Memphis,” “Million Dollar Quartet” and “Rock of Ages.” By the time the season ends in April, a well-choreographed collection of memorable shows for young and old will be presented. The upcoming University Theatre season will feature world-class guest artists, classic musicals, contemporary comedies and provocative dramas.

The season will end with “The King Stag,” Carlos Gozzi’s fairytale for all ages, April 3 through 13. In between, patrons can choose to see everything from “Pride & Prejudice” and an innovative documentary-style play to perennial favorites such as “Ragtime” and "9 to 5.”

Buying a season subscription is the best way to receive discounted tickets for Miller as well as University Theatre shows. Both are on sale now, along with Miller’s Flex Pass subscription. Single-show tickets at Miller will go on sale several weeks before each performance.

To learn more about the upcoming seasons, employee benefits or tickets, visit Miller at millerauditorium.com or call (269) 387-2300 or (800) 228-9858 and visit University Theatre at wmic.edu/theatre or call (269) 387-6222.

Web developer tapped for electronic communication role

Daniel E. Lobelle has been named director of electronic communication, with responsibility for content on the University’s website, mass email, social media and other forms of electronic communication.

Lobelle, who has worked under contract with WMU since 2011, is the developer of a Drupal-based enterprise-wide content management system for the University’s Web presence. Since mid-2012, websites across the University have been migrated into the system, and site managers, editors and contributors have been trained to manage their sites within the system. Lobelle will continue to work part-time with WMU, before stepping down earlier this year. She was the developer of a Drupal content management system for the Kalamazoo Center for Medical Studies (now the WMU School of Medicine), IT operations manager for engineering firm Carl Walker Inc., and senior network administrator for West Michigan Heart. He also has been a contractor, freelance Web developer and small business owner.

Electronic communication is part of the Office of University Relations, which also includes news services, media relations, creative services, design, marketing, publications and related areas.

Lobelle replaces Terri Darlach, who had served in the director's role for a year before stepping down early this year. She continues to work part-time with WMU, focusing on special projects. Other members of the electronic communication team are Cara Barnes, assistant director of electronic communication, and Bradley Horstman, Web manager.

National story spotlights WMU’s contributions to the arts

WMU garnered the most attention in a national story published last month that takes an in-depth look at the contributions Michigan colleges and universities make to the arts.

The seven-page feature, “Arts Patrons for the 21st Century,” ran in the Chronicle of Higher Education's May 10 issue. It can be found online at chronicle.com/article/Arts-Patrons-for-the-21stC/139037. In that first-person piece, writer Lawrence Biemiller argues that higher education institutions keep the arts alive—and thriving—in an era of uncertain support.

Biemiller came to that conclusion after attending some of the 3,000 arts events WMU annually stages and by also attending fundraising events at Michigan State University, the University of Michigan and several other schools on his tour.

Current job opportunities at WMU are announced daily on the Human Resources website at wmic.edu/hr/careers-at-wmu.html. Please note that applications must be submitted online by the stated deadline. Complete application procedures are included with each posting.

Obituary

Editor’s Note: Visit wmic.edu/news/obituaries for full obituaries.

Betty J. Wellenkamp, a former second cook in the Bernhard Center Dining Services, died May 25. She was 92. Visit williamsjonesfuneral.com to leave an online condolence.

Staffer’s book focuses on fundraising

John Greenhoe, development and alumni relations, is the author of “Opening the Door to Major Gifts: Mastering the Discovery Call,” which was published in May by Charitable Channel Press. The book specifically considers the importance of cultivating relationships with people identified as potential major donors.

It reveals strategies for making a first visit, ideas for finding new major donors and creating new major donor visits. The work is endorsed by some of the world’s leading fundraising professionals, including Laura Fredricks, Gail Perry, Guy Mallabone and Harvey McKinnon.

Greenhoe has presented nationally and internationally on various fundraising topics. He also has raised millions of dollars for large and small nonprofit organizations and taught fundraising master's level courses.

A WMU staff member since 2001, Greenhoe previously was a news reporter and public relations director for Kalamazoo College. He earned a bachelor's degree from WMU in 1983. Additional information about his book is available online at about.me/johngreenhoe.

Alumna earns top employee honors

Demetria Jones, a graduate assistant in the social work field-education office who graduated in April, has been selected from among 66 nominees and more than 3,900 WMU student employees as the 2012-13 Student Employee of the Year.

Since 2012, Jones has worked in the social work field-education office with Student Services, Field Education Coordinator Jennifer Harrison, to manage, place and monitor more than 300 undergraduate and graduate students in field internships.

Jones has used her skills to help advance the School of Social Work in several ways. With her abilities in degree requirements, security and database management, she led an effort to compile years of paper files into a searchable electronic database. Also, she is the primary manager of a field education searchable database. Also, she is an in-depth look at the contributions of Michigan colleges and universities to the arts.
Broncoland video game released during student orientation

An online video game that uses 3D gaming technology to introduce current and prospective students to success skills they’ll need in college was unveiled June 3 during the first day of WMU’s 2013 new student orientation. The Broncoland Game is built on the same technology and 3D depiction of the WMU campus used in a groundbreaking online campus tour launched two years ago. That site—the Broncoland Tour—now attracts some 1,000 visitors monthly.

The video game allows players to connect with the campus while teaching them essential skills that will help them be successful during their first year in college. Using the game, student-players attend classes, eat and work out, make friends, do homework, attend events, and race toward the end of a 10-week semester. Project Director Kevin Abbott, information technology, says the game is designed to allow students to use a format they enjoy to experience some common problems they might face as first-year students. As they play the game, they learn which campus services and offices are available to help them through such problems. “We wanted to give students a tool that would help them avoid the common first-semester pitfalls and be ready to excel when they arrive on campus for classes,” Abbott says.

Abbott and a team of more than a dozen students did the programming; art, visual and game design; interface design; and writing and audio production necessary to bring the game to life. Through the work on both the tour and the game, the team has developed a 3D campus that includes more than 50 buildings, roads, sidewalks and landscaping.

Information about the game can be viewed and the game can be played on a Web browser or downloaded for Mac or Windows computers at wmich.edu/broncoland.

The Broncoland Tour and Game, finely, are products of the WMU Millennium Project, which recognizes that learning styles and educational goals are different for different generations of students. The project aims to develop more effective strategies for meeting the needs of millennium-generation students—those attending college in the 21st century.

For more information about the Broncoland tour or game, contact Project Director Kevin Abbott, who also is a member of the WMU 21st Century Student Committee, at kevin.abbott@wmich.edu or (269) 387-5125.

Nonbargaining groups hold elections, select new leadership for 2013-14

The University’s two nonbargaining groups have selected their leadership for 2013-14. Both the Professional Support Staff Organization and the Administration Professional Association represent a specific set of Staff Compensation System employees.

Professional Support Staff Organization

Officers for the new year’s Executive Board are: president, Kris Kent, maintenance services; vice president, Carol Morris-Mier, College of Education and Human Development; secretary, Pat Wilcox, payroll and disbursements; and treasurer, Nancy Johnson, Office of the Associate Vice President for Finance.

Serving on the board as members at large are: Kandesso-Toi Ross, human resources; Tracey Sherburn, accounting; Bekki Spanjer, grants and contracts; Paige Warner, first-year experience; and Jan Watson, institutional research.

Administrative Professional Association

Officers for the new year’s Executive Board are: president, Faith Wicklund, Miller Auditorium; vice president, Chris Voss, University Recreation; treasurer, Lynda Hunt, development and alumni relations; corresponding secretary, Suzanne Beals-Duschev, development and alumni relations; and recording secretary, Laura Vine, business services.

Serving on the board as representatives of WMU’s academic, administrative, business and finance, or student affairs areas are: Liz Teviodal, Medieval Institute; Mario Gallbreath, information technology; Randy Ott, Center for Academic Success Programs; Kitty Schieff, College of Health and Human Services; Julie Nemire, music; Roxann “Roxie” Swank, College of Education and Human Development; Mary Ramlow, Evaluation Center; Michelle Loedeman, accounts receivable; Julie Lenczycki, Facilities Management; Nick Griffith, investments and endowment management; Ashley Les, student affairs; and Wayne Pushie, student affairs. Serving as a past president is Amy Seth, University Recreation.

People are needed to serve on the membership, events and professional development committees. If interested, contact Chris Voss at cvooss@wmich.edu or (269) 387-3772.
Construction projects to cause few disruptions

without families who have achieved at least sophomore status. It forms a residential
neighborhood with features such as a director and resident building managers, apartments
for those with mobility challenges, and picnic areas and green space.

The existing four apartment buildings can house 330 students and were at full capacity
nearly a year in advance of their fall 2011 opening. The two new apartment buildings
will house an additional 174 students.

Meanwhile, activities continue on sched-
ule for several other major projects already underway or recently announced.

• Sangren Hall—Early July should see the
parking lot behind Sangren Hall finished. This project will result in a net gain in park-
ing spaces available around Sangren and will
be closed to all walk-in research
off of Oakland Drive is nearing completion.

Archives and Regional History Collections
is operating under reduced hours
and instructional services beginning Aug.
1 to prepare for its move. The relocation
period is expected to last until mid-October,
and a formal dedication ceremony will be
held in the fall.

• Medical school building—A structural-
strengthening top will be produced from these solar panels.”

• Sangren Hall uses and how much
of this usage is offset by the panels will be
collected starting Monday, June 10, with the
first set of readings revealed Monday, June
17. “By fall, monitors set up in the build-
ing’s lobby will display that information in
real time,” he adds. “We’re expecting up to
a quarter megawatt of renewable energy to
be produced from these solar panels.”

• Zhang Legacy Collections Center—
Construction on this new home for WMU
Archives and Regional History Collections
will be held in the fall.

• Medical school building—A structural-
steel topping ceremony will be held in late
August. The event will take place in the
facility, which is located at 300 Portage St.
and is now formally the University’s W.E.
Upjohn Campus. The project is on time and
on budget for a soft move-in next summer.

• Making way for new residence halls—
Bigelow and Hoekje Halls will officially close
early this month. Abatement activities will
take place during the summer months, and a
site construction fence will wrap the build-
ing and parking lot in August. Demolition
of the two halls will occur in the fall.

Emergency communication system is changing

1. Go to GoWMU.
2. Click the yellow and red WMU Alert
triangle.
3. Enter the preferred phone number and
click submit.

This change will substantially increase
the number of students, faculty and staff
using the system, and as a result, improve
emergency communications on campus.

“Reverse 911 system will remain in
place through the transition to the new
Rave system. Additional details about
the new system will be provided after June 11.

STRENGTHENING TIES—President John M.
Dunn spent two weeks overseas in May con-
ecting with University partners and friends. His
trip took him
first to Beijing to meet with
WMU’s Confucius Insti-
tute partners
at the Beijing Lan-
guage
and Cultural
University. His
next stop was Japan, where he met with WMU
students studying in the country, visited several
universities, and attended and spoke at the re-
union of Kalamazoo Kai, a group of Japanese
who have ties to the University or Kalamazoo.
During the reunion, Dunn, right, met with
the group’s key founder, Shunichi Fujishima, left.

(Photos courtesy of Kalamazoo Kai)

ARTFUL MANAGEMENT

(WMICH.EDU/WESTERNNEWS)